

Student Sample #1: Esperanza's Letter Home

Dear Nenny,

How are you and everyone on Mango Street? Me, well, you don't have to worry about me. I am doing fine. I know I have left many things behind, but I will be back. So it isn't like you've seen the last of me. Watch out for me. I want to go back because I miss everyone and I want to let them know how smart, grown up and successful I am. I decided to go away for a little while because I think there are lots of new things I have to explore in life, and I feel the best way to explore things is to leave Mango Street.

"Life is a precious thing." Remember that quote especially since you're growing up. I've been there, done that, and it is a real hard thing when you don't have an older sister. Since you do, I am telling you so that you won't mess up as badly as I did and doubt yourself. Now I have to forget about how it was so hard growing up and live the life that I've wanted. I am in college still trying to figure out what I want to be in life. I know I want to do something with writing.

Always keep in mind all the things we did together: the talks about boys, how you and I weren't born to look like sisters, and what you said about us all needing hips to dance.

When I come back you will see a new person. Someone you would never have thought I would become.

Keep in mind to always have faith in yourself. Also, know that you can talk to me about anything that you want to know about: boys,

Sincerely,

Esperanza Cordero

Student Sample #2: Esperanza's Letter Home

My dear friends Lucy and Rachel,

Five dollars and you are my friends for a lifetime. Mango Street and us, young but not free. "Who mama you talking about?" Remember that? But yeah, we're still friends. From the laughs and even through the not good times, this little red balloon better known as Esperanza, is no longer tied to an anchor, but set free to come and go as I please.

My friends, I made it by a little luck. I will come back and set you free as well, to fly high in the clouds. We will no longer fall asleep under the clouds that protect Mango Street, but under the clouds that protect the world. We can go farther than Mr. Benny's store, past Meme's twenty-one steps, past the little red house that wanted to keep me there on Mango. We will see life how we were supposed to see it, not how our imaginations made it out to be. Mango Street, I will be back.

Lucy and Rachel are you ready?

Esperanza